

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated January 24, 2005, claims 1 and 7 are amended, and claims 2-4 and 8-10 are canceled. Claims 1 and 5-7 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (USPN 5,828,780) in view of Ito et al. (USPN 5,884,120), for the reasons of record.

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to delineate the subject matter that is not disclosed or suggested in either Suzuki et al. or Ito et al. Thus, amended independent claim 1 now recites:

An image processing apparatus for processing plural pages of a job to be give to an output device, each page of the plural pages having a predetermined number of sections of standard color space, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a decision controlling for deciding for each page whether image data included in each section of standard color space are data within a color reproduction range of the output device or not; and

a color compressing controller for performing a color compression process uniformly to said each page of the plural pages of image data in accordance with the decision of the decision controller so as to supply the processed data to the output device, wherein

performing the color compression process uniformly to said each page of the plural pages of the job includes determining the sections of standard color space that require the color compression process in any of the plural pages of the job and performing the color compression process on the sections of standard color space of said each page that are determined to be required in any of the plural pages.

Independent claim 7 is similarly amended and claims 2-4 and 8-10 are cancelled.

The subject matter now recited in amended independent 1 is disclosed at page 4, line 26 through page 5, line 23. In particular, referring to the example of Fig. 2, the color range r1 of the

first page of the job is out of the printer color reproduction range r_0 in block q_1 of blocks $q_1 - q_6$ while the color range r_2 of the second page of the job is out of the printer color reproduction range r_0 in the blocks q_3 and q_4 of blocks $q_1 - q_6$. In such case, performing the color compression process uniformly to each page of the two (plural) pages of the job includes performing the color compression process on blocks q_1 , q_3 and q_4 of each page as these blocks are determined to require the color compression process in any of the two (plural) pages of the job.

Suzuki et al. is concerned with individual object images and not plural pages of a job. Thus, in Suzuki et al., performing the color compression process is determined an object image and generally includes obtaining the total sum IP of all pixels belonging to divided spaces recognized as within the color reproduction range and computing an inclusion ratio of IP/TP where TP is the total number of pixels in the entire image and compression processing is executed when the inclusion ratio excess a preset threshold value Th . No matter how object image is interpreted (a single page or individual objects on a single page), if Suzuki et al. were dealing with plural pages of images, the compression process would be determined and applied for each page individually. There certainly would not be a performing of the color compression process uniformly to each page of the plural pages of the job by determining the sections of standard color space that require the color compression process in any of the plural pages of the job and then performing the color compression process on the sections of standard color space of each page that are determined to be required in any of the plural pages, as is required by amended independent claim 1.

As noted in the previous response, Ito et al. teaches that when a color document and a monochromatic document coexist in N documents, a color/monochromatic switching control

portion switches whether a copied image is outputted in color or monochromatic. When the color change number is set, for example, to 4 and all documents are color, color copy mode is selected at the time of outputting. Further, when the color change number is set, for example, to 1 and at least one color document is included in four document, a color print is produced. When all documents are monochromatic, a monochromatic print is produced. In other words, Ito et al. teaches an image forming apparatus for deciding whether each document is a color document or a monochromatic document in order to output plural documents on a sheet of paper. Accordingly, for a N-in-1 (image forming) mode for forming one image of N documents (i.e., N separate images are in 1 output document), it is decided whether a color print is produced or a monochromatic print is produced for each sheet of paper outputted in the 4-in-1 mode. Additionally, according to Ito et al., in the case of individual output over plural pages, it is switched whether a copied image is outputted in color or monochromatic depending on respective characteristics of documents.

Thus, independent claims 1 and 7, as well as dependent claims 5 and 6, are patentable over Suzuki et al. and Ito et al., considered alone or in combination. Consequently, the allowance of claims 1 and 5-7 is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

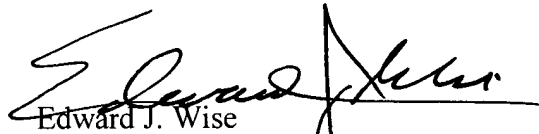
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

09/656,440

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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